

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method of catching and retaining solid particles and liquid droplets expelled from a cough, sneeze or nose blow, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a handkerchief comprising:

(i) a base layer of soft, absorbent material, the base layer having a pair of opposed sides, both of which define a base layer area between about 9 square inches and about 576 square inches; and

(ii) a pouch layer of soft absorbent material attached to the base layer so as to define a pouch enclosure with a single pouch enclosure opening, the pouch layer having a pair of opposed sides, both of which define a pouch layer area less than that of the base layer area; and

(b) catching and retaining expelled solid particles and liquid droplets from a cough, sneeze or nose blow in the pouch enclosure.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the base layer area is between about 25 square inches and about 400 square inches.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the pouch layer area is between about 4 square inches and about 36 square inches.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the pouch enclosure is V-shaped.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the pouch enclosure is U-shaped.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the pouch enclosure is rectangular.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein two separate pouch layers of soft absorbent material are attached to the base layer side by side so as to define a pair of side by side pouch enclosures, each with a single pouch enclosure opening, both pouch layers having a pair of opposed sides, the pair of opposed sides both defining a pouch layer area less than that of the base layer area.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the base layer comprises a generally linear upper edge, the pouch enclosure opening is disposed between about 2 inches and about 4 inches below the upper edge of the base layer.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the pouch extends downwardly below the pouch enclosure opening a distance of between about 2 inches and about 5 inches.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the pouch layer is thicker than the base layer.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the pouch layer is thinner than the base layer.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein both the base layer and the pouch layer are made of a soft absorbent linen cloth material.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein both the base layer and the pouch layer are made of a soft absorbent paper material.